

2 May 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Messages from General Abrams to Secretary Laird

1. At several points during our 2 May session, Secretary Laird made oblique reference to personal assessments from General Abrams. When it became evident that he was not going to volunteer copies, I asked for the text of these messages point-blank. Laird paused, shot me a quizzical look, and then told Pursley to make the requisite copies for your personal use and mine adding that these messages must be very tightly held. (I naturally assured him that they would be.)

2. Attached are texts of the four messages in question arranged in chronological order: Abrams' 24 April assessment, his 26 April assessment, Laird's 1 May Memorandum to the President based on Abrams' 1 May cable to Laird, and Abrams' private report to Laird on a session he and Bunker had with Thieu on 2 May. I recommend you read the documents in this order so you can get a sense of the unfolding and changing flavor of Abrams' mood. The first two can safely be skimmed but you should read the last two line for line. Per my promise to Laird, I do not plan to allow any copies to be made of these texts. I would, therefore, appreciate your returning them after you have read them.

George A. Carver, Jr.  
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachments  
TS

*VAS/RAC w/atts*  
*Mac Ch...*